



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

Committee Bill No. 5885

LCO No. 3746

Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT CONCERNING PATIENT ACCESS TO PHYSICAL THERAPY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 20-73 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (a) No person may practice as a physical therapist unless licensed
4 pursuant to this chapter. No person may use the term "Registered
5 Physical Therapist", "Licensed Physical Therapist" or "Physical
6 Therapist" or the letters "R.P.T.", "L.P.T." or any other letters, words or
7 insignia indicating or implying licensure as a physical therapist in this
8 state unless the person is so licensed. The treatment of human ailments
9 by physical therapy shall only be performed by a person licensed
10 under the provisions of this chapter as a physical therapist. [upon the
11 oral or written referral of a person licensed in this state or in a
12 bordering state having licensing requirements meeting the approval of
13 the appropriate examining board in this state to practice medicine and
14 surgery, podiatry, natureopathy, chiropractic or dentistry, or an
15 advanced practice registered nurse licensed to prescribe in accordance
16 with section 20-94a or a physician assistant licensed to prescribe in
17 accordance with section 20-12d.] Any person who violates the

18 provisions of this section or who obtains or attempts to obtain
19 licensure as a physical therapist by any wilful misrepresentation or any
20 fraudulent representation shall be fined not more than five hundred
21 dollars or imprisoned not more than five years, or both. A physical
22 therapist or dentist who violates the provisions of this section shall be
23 subject to licensure revocation in the same manner as is provided
24 under section 19a-17, or in the case of a healing arts practitioner,
25 section 20-45. For purposes of this section each instance of patient
26 contact or consultation in violation of any provision of this section
27 shall constitute a separate offense. Failure to renew a license in a
28 timely manner shall not constitute a violation for the purposes of this
29 section.

30 (b) Each physical therapy assistant who is assisting in the practice of
31 physical therapy under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist,
32 as defined in section 20-66, shall, upon payment of an application fee
33 of twenty-five dollars, register with the Department of Public Health
34 on a form furnished by the department, giving [his] the physical
35 therapy assistant's name in full, [his] the physical therapy assistant's
36 residence and business addresses and such other information as the
37 department requests. Each physical therapy assistant shall notify the
38 department in writing within thirty days of any change in [his] the
39 physical therapy assistant's name or residence or business addresses. A
40 physical therapy assistant shall not practice physical therapy assisting
41 without registering with the department pursuant to this section. The
42 commissioner may, upon receipt of notification and investigation,
43 assess a civil penalty of not more than one hundred dollars against any
44 physical therapy assistant who has practiced physical therapy assisting
45 without first registering with [said] the department.

46 Sec. 2. Section 20-73 of the general statutes, as amended by section
47 15 of public act 00-226, is repealed and the following is substituted in
48 lieu thereof:

49 (a) (1) No person may practice as a physical therapist unless

50 licensed pursuant to this chapter. No person may use the term
51 "Registered Physical Therapist", "Licensed Physical Therapist" or
52 "Physical Therapist" or the letters "R.P.T.", "L.P.T." or any other letters,
53 words or insignia indicating or implying licensure as a physical
54 therapist in this state unless the person is so licensed.

55 (2) No person may practice as a physical therapist assistant unless
56 such person is licensed pursuant to this chapter and is under the
57 supervision of a physical therapist licensed pursuant to this chapter.
58 No person may use the term "Registered Physical Therapist Assistant",
59 "Licensed Physical Therapist Assistant" or "Physical Therapist
60 Assistant", or the letters "P.T.A." to represent or imply the term
61 "Physical Therapist Assistant", or any other letters, words or insignia
62 indicating or implying licensure as a physical therapist assistant in this
63 state unless the person is so licensed.

64 (b) The treatment of human ailments by physical therapy shall only
65 be performed by a person licensed under the provisions of this chapter
66 as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant. [upon the oral or
67 written referral of a person licensed in this state, or in a bordering state
68 having licensing requirements meeting the approval of the appropriate
69 examining board in this state, to practice medicine and surgery,
70 podiatry, natureopathy, chiropractic or dentistry, or an advanced
71 practice registered nurse licensed to prescribe in accordance with
72 section 20-94a or a physician assistant licensed to prescribe in
73 accordance with section 20-12d.]

74 (c) Any person who violates the provisions of this section or who
75 obtains or attempts to obtain licensure as a physical therapist or
76 physical therapist assistant by any wilful misrepresentation or any
77 fraudulent representation shall be fined not more than five hundred
78 dollars or imprisoned not more than five years, or both. A physical
79 therapist, physical therapist assistant or dentist who violates the
80 provisions of this section shall be subject to licensure revocation in the
81 same manner as is provided under section 19a-17, or in the case of a

82 healing arts practitioner, section 20-45. For purposes of this section
83 each instance of patient contact or consultation in violation of any
84 provision of this section shall constitute a separate offense. Failure to
85 renew a license in a timely manner shall not constitute a violation for
86 the purposes of this section.

87 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect October 1, 2001, except that section 2
88 shall take effect the later of October 1, 2001, or the date notice is
89 published by the Commissioner of Public Health in the Connecticut
90 Law Journal indicating that the licensing of athletic trainers and
91 physical therapist assistants is being implemented by the
92 commissioner.

Statement of Purpose:

To allow the public direct access to physical therapy services without unnecessary referrals.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. RACZKA, 100th Dist.; REP. SAYERS, 60th Dist.
REP. O'CONNOR, 35th Dist.; SEN. HANDLEY, 4th Dist.